

June 29-July 5, 1986 \$1.00

GayCommunityNews

VOL. 13, NO. 49 THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES BIPAD: 65498



**Thoughts on the Black and
Gay Movements:
An Interview with Bayard Rustin**

GayCommunityNews

Vol. 13, No. 49

(617) 426-4469

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June 29-July 5, 1986

CDC, HHS immediately rebut transmissibility assumptions

U.S. Memo Claims AIDSphobia Is Not Illegal

By Jim Kiely

WASHINGTON, DC — In a June 20 memorandum to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Justice Department stated that federal civil rights laws do not protect people with AIDS or others at risk of contracting the illness from discrimination by employers. Making a distinction many activists regard as facetious, the memorandum states that it would be illegal to fire or exclude a person from a federal program or federally funded entity solely because they have AIDS or are at-risk, but it would not be illegal if the person was feared to be capable of transmitting AIDS. The decision, which greatly differs from earlier recommendations made to the Justice Department by legal and medical experts, has been met with a flurry of protest.

In preliminary recommendations to the Justice Department two weeks before the June 20 opinion, staff lawyers suggested that people with AIDS be recognized as handicapped because of the severe physical toll the illness takes, and that they be protected from job discrimination under Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Act protects the handicapped from discrimination in federal programs or by schools,

hospitals, employers, etc. that receive federal funds. Citing previous reports from the Centers for Disease Control and other health organizations, the lawyers deemed the risk of transmission of AIDS in the workplace to be negligible and therefore, invalid as grounds for dismissal from employment.

In the June 20 Justice Department decision, only one of these recommendations was followed. Although the memorandum stated that people with AIDS may be considered handicapped, and thus, protected under Section 504, it also concluded that "an individual's (real or perceived) ability to transmit the disease to others is not a handicap within the meaning of the statute, and therefore, that discrimination on this basis does not fall within Section 504."

The Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services have consistently stated that AIDS is not spread through casual contact. However, the Justice Department appears to have interpreted the medical data as "medical uncertainty." The June 20 opinion states that any person alleging discrimination on the grounds they have AIDS or are at-risk for AIDS must prove they

pose no threat. "The risk of medical uncertainty must be borne" by the person alleging discrimination, according to the memorandum.

In a joint statement released immediately after the Justice Department decision, the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services reiterated the position that "employees, employers and others can be assured that [HTLV-III] is not transmitted by casual contact within the workplace or school.

Reaction from lesbian/gay civil rights activists to the Justice Department statement has also been swift. Leonard Graff, legal director of the San Francisco-based National Gay Rights Advocates, told *GCN* the opinion is clearly "based on politics rather than jurisprudence...The Justice Department does not want to seem to be catering to homosexuals, so it has — against the advice of its own lawyers — played up a chance of transmitting AIDS through casual contact. It's legitimized homophobia." Kevin Cathcart, executive director of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders of Boston, concurred, calling the decision "a means by which an employer could keep gays out of

the work force...by trumping up concern for employees health."

Responding to the Justice Department's admission that a "real or perceived" threat of AIDS transmission would be grounds for firing, Sarah Wunsch, director of the Cambridge, Mass. Human Rights Commission, called the opinion "absurd." She told *GCN*, "If the decision were to be applied to other people who are protected from discrimination, its absurdity would be obvious...Can you imagine an employer saying, 'I

don't hire Blacks because they are Black, I don't hire them because [I'm scared] they may transmit sickle cell anemia to our employees?"

While activists agree the opinion fuels workplace discrimination and adds to the misinformation about AIDS transmission, its legal impact remains debatable. The opinion is not a legal ruling, but an interpretation of the law that can be superseded by judicial decisions. In addition, it would not af-

Continued on page 3

To see son with AIDS Cuba Okays Mother's Visit

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — After a year-long battle with Cuban authorities, Estrella Hechaverria was allowed to travel here on June 20 to see her son — just days before he died of AIDS on June 26. Cuban authorities had earlier denied her a visa, claiming they feared she would "return to Cuba with the virus."

Following the visa denial in May of this year, Hechaverria's son, Luis Valdes, his lover, Steven Yost and longtime family friend, José Rey, sent letters to the Massachusetts Congressional delegation and to Senators Kennedy and Kerry. Finding no success, they met with Black activist and candidate in the Eighth District Congressional race, Mel King.

According to John Demeter, media coordinator for the King campaign, King immediately called the Cuban Interests Sec-

tion and began negotiations that led to Hechaverria's receiving a visa. King spoke with officials about transmission of AIDS, insisting that Hechaverria would not receive AIDS from visiting Valdes.

David Aronstein of the Boston AIDS Action Committee said the committee had also been working to obtain a visa for Hechaverria during the last year. The situation was looking hopeless, he said, until King's contact with Cuban officials.

Upon securing the visa, King, the AIDS Action Committee and Valdes' co-workers from Oficina Hispana worked to raise funds for a special charter flight for Hechaverria.

Hechaverria had not seen her son since his 1980 departure from Cuba.

Two Gay men killed

Hub Police Deny Link in Recent Anti-Gay Violence

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — In a rash of anti-gay violence here, two gay men have been killed and possibly up to seven others have been violently assaulted. Police are claiming that these incidents of violence are not connected.

On June 3, a 31 year-old gay man was seriously beaten and stabbed by three white men at the Orient Heights subway stop in East Boston. MBTA deputy police chief Thomas Maloney told *GCN* there was no apparent motive in the stabbing. Although Maloney would not divulge his reasoning, he said the man was not assaulted for being gay. "I've worked in assault for years," said Maloney. "I know what gay bashing is and this isn't it."

On June 18, 32 year-old Tory Anderson was robbed and fatally stabbed in the Boston Public Garden. According to the Boston *Herald*, Anderson's death is connected to a number of recent robberies of gay men in the Garden. Police apparently suspect that one white man and one Black man approach their victims for sex and then rob them. Police Superintendent John Gifford, who heads the Boston Police detective bureau, told the *Herald* that there have been no "rash" of "homosexual crimes" although there have been reports of gay men being robbed. Gifford did not return *GCN*'s calls.

In another gay murder, David McCarthy, a 22-year-old Boston man, was found on June 24 stran-

gled and gagged in his Back Bay condominium. He had apparently been dead for days before he was found. Police are refusing to comment on McCarthy's death, which they say is "under investigation."

Also, in the past two weeks, there have been reports of up to six stabbings of gay men in the Fenway area. The last one apparently occurred on June 22. A Fenway resident, who wishes to be identified as Jimmy, told *GCN* he saw a young gay man who he recognized, but did not know by name, being taken away by an ambulance at 4 a.m. on the 22nd. Emergency medical technicians told Jimmy the man was being taken to Beth Israel Hospital.

"Everyone down here knows about the stabbings," said Jimmy. "You see ambulances carting people away all the time." Jimmy said the police have denied all his requests for information about the stabbings.

Jane Sheehan, administrative assistant to the director of Informational Services for the Boston Police, said she knows nothing about the stabbings. She said if the crimes had in fact occurred, officers investigating the case would not be available for comment because "they are not at out to divulge what they are investigating." "As far as police records go, [the stabbings] haven't happened," added Sheehan.

Ann Maguire, Boston Mayor Flynn's liaison to the lesbian and gay community, said she has talk-

ed to the police about the Fenway stabbings and that "They are investigating them and working diligently."

Mandatory HTLV-3 Test for Gay Father Overturned

By Anne Phibbs

CHICAGO — On June 11, a judge here threw out a previous court order requiring a gay father to take an HTLV-III antibody test as a condition for visiting his children. Judge Howard Kaufman ruled that insufficient evidence had been presented to support the order. He scheduled a full-scale hearing on the case for July 23.

Last fall, John Doe, as the gay father is called in court records, filed a motion for expanded visitation privileges with his two daughters. His ex-wife, Susan Doe, asked Judge Richard Jorzak to require Doe to first take an HTLV-III antibody test, claiming her children could contract AIDS from their father because he is gay. On November 26, Judge Jorzak ordered Doe, who is healthy, to take the test. It was the first time the antibody test had been made mandatory as a condition for parental visitation rights.

Ben Schatz, director of the AIDS Civil Rights Project of the

National Gay Rights Advocates, litigator for the case on Doe's behalf, told *GCN* he is encouraged by Kaufman's decision. "I'm very optimistic for the simple reason that all the evidence is on our side," he said. He also noted that the June 11 decision significantly changes the context of the argument: "This decision changes the burden of proof. Before, John had to prove why he shouldn't be tested. Now, they [Susan Doe] have to prove why he should be tested."

Doe vs. Doe has garnered a national spotlight, due in part to the fact that four different judges have already heard the case, with two refusing to make rulings. Schatz told *GCN* the courts' reluctance to act on the case exemplifies the way U.S. society has dealt with AIDS all along — by "avoiding [it] like the plague." After Jorzak handed down his order for John Doe to be tested, Doe appealed the decision, informing the court he would not comply with the order.

The next judge on the case, Robert Cusack, refused to rule and the third judge, John Beatty, removed himself, claiming he could not be impartial. According to the Chicago *Tribune*, Beatty said, "I felt I could not give John Doe a fair verdict...based on a combination of factors, but basically it is because of the man's lifestyle."

Schatz told *GCN* this case is being watched closely not only because of the way it has been handled, but because the case also highlights the potential for discriminatory use of the HTLV-III test. He said *Doe vs. Doe* is the "perfect case of the test being used against gay men because they are gay." According to Schatz, John Doe's struggles are also evidence that "there is a high level of ignorance here about the transmissibility of AIDS."

John Doe is not giving interviews with the press at this time.

— filed from Boston

News Notes

quote of the week

"I think somebody along the line has to tell it like it is. There are a lot of them [lesbian athletes] around. They are not role models."

— *Bill Gleason, former coach of Chicago's team in the disbanded women's professional basketball league, as reported in a Chicago Sun-Times special report on lesbians in sports, June 16. Gleason said he was shocked to find out that many players on his team and throughout the league were involved in lesbian relationships. Furthermore, he said, lesbian groupies followed the Chicago team: "I couldn't believe it when we would get off planes at the airport. Girls with butch haircuts. You could just tell."*

The Sun-Times report also quotes a number of other coaches who fear for the future of women's sports due to the negative image put forth by the plethora of lesbian players and coaches. In addition, some coaches say they must constantly battle the stigma of "guilt by association."

ward 5 dems. fail to endorse in 8th district race

BOSTON — The Ward 5 Democratic Committee which includes openly lesbian and gay members, failed to endorse any of the candidates competing in the Eighth District Congressional race. The committee represents Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Bay Villiage and the East Fenway.

While the committee didn't provide any of the candidates with the necessary two-thirds majority vote necessary for an endorsement, the favorite was clearly State Senator George Bachrach. Bachrach received 19 votes followed by Joseph Kennedy with 12 votes, Black Rainbow Coalition activist Mel King with four votes, James Roosevelt with three votes and State Rep. Thomas Gallagher with two votes.

Tim McFeeley, openly gay chair of the committee, told GCN that the majority of the openly gay committee members voted for Bachrach, with King and Kennedy receiving minimal lesbian and gay support. McFeeley expressed surprise at the number of votes that went to Kennedy, who he said, evaded questions regarding abortion from committee members. In addition, at a recent Mass Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Candidates forum, Kennedy said he believed a heterosexual family was the best placement for a foster child and that he was in favor of the death penalty.

— Kim Westheimer

mass. caucus endorses candidates

BOSTON — In an endorsement night full of political disagreement, the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus managed to easily agree on one thing: they voted unanimously not to endorse Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in the 1986 elections. Dukakis is responsible for a foster care policy that disclriminates against lesbians and gay men. In other races the caucus endorsed Evelyn Murphy for Lieutenant Governor; James Shannon for Attorney General; Joseph DeNucci for State Auditor and George Bachrach for the Eighth District Congressional seat.

— Kim Westheimer

htlv-3 confidentiality bill stalls in senate

BOSTON — Despite hope of activists that an HTLV-III confidentiality bill would make it through the Senate on June 24, the bill was ordered to a third committee reading. H5491, sponsored by Rep. John McDonough (D-Boston), would mandate that no employer or health care provider could administer HTLV-III tests without "written informed consent" from the person to be tested. The bill would also prohibit administration of the HTLV-III test as a condition for employment.

While the bill was not passed, an amendment to the bill which clarifies the term "written informed consent" was passed by a 20-15 vote. The amendment, proposed by Sen. Edward Burke (D-Framingham), states that a written consent form "shall state the purpose for which the information is being requested and shall be distinguished from written consent for the release of any other medical information."

According to Arline Isaacson, co-chair of the Massachusetts Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus, the Senate debate around H5491 indicates that a number of senators need education regarding AIDS. For example, Sen. Edward Kirby (R-Whitman) argued against the bill saying, "It is more and more recognized that this virus is leaking out of the gay community. They created this big pool of infection and now it is breaking out into the community as a whole." Kirby was followed by Sen. John Parker (R-Taunton) who said "I am not an hysterical man — but would you eat at a restaurant if you knew someone there had AIDS?"

Sen. Arthur Lewis (D-Boston), who voted against the Burke amendment, chairs the third reading committee.

— Kim Westheimer

govt. closes gay bar in guadalajara

GUADALAJARA, Mexico — A gay bar/restaurant here has been closed by the government as of February 8, 1986. According to Benjamin De La Mora, a gay actlvist in Guadalajara, "Un Lugar," (A Place) was shut down on trumped up charges. A notice from the city to the bar cited failure to serve food with drinks as a primary charge. While the fine imposed has since been paid, "Un Lugar" is still being denied permission to re-open.

De La Mora described the city's action as part of a wave of repression ushered in by a new administration which took office at the beginning of the year. De La Mora said the new administration has stepped up repression of all people in the city, but has particularly attacked gay people.

To protest the government's closing and refusal to re-open "Un Lugar," letters may be sent to the governor of the state of Jalisco: Lic. Enrico Alvarez Del Castillo L., Gobernador Constitucional del Estado de Jalisco, Palacio de Gobierno.

Please send copies of protest letters to the local gay organization: Grupo Nueva Generacion Gay, Apartado Postal 1-4171, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico.

— Vanessa Nemeth

gimme that alison thorne religion

SYDNEY, Australia — Supporters of the Campaign to Reinstate (lesbian teacher) Alison Thorne gathered May 23 for a fundraiser supper featuring gay gospel singer Oral Richards.

Thorne was barred from teaching at the Glenroy Technichal School in Melbourne in November of 1983 after she endorsed a letter protesting government attacks on members of the Pedophile Support Group. Although the courts have since dismissed the charges against the pedophile discussion group of "conspiracy to corrupt public morals," the Director General of Education in Victoria continues to prevent Thorne from teaching. Thorne is fighting her dismissal from teaching duties through the Equal Opportunity Board in Melbourne.

Wearing a ten-gallon stetson and VIP dark glasses, Oral Richards entertained Thorne's supporters with a pungent, songful send-up of Rightwing Christian fundamentalism. The crowd clapped to the beat as he sang "Gimme that Alison Thorne religion, Gimme that socialist feminist religion, it's good enough for me."

— Kendall Lovett



Kendall Lovett

SYDNEY, Australia — Lesbian and gay activists demonstrate outside the New Zealand Tourist Bureau May 23, in protest of the New Zealand Parliament's delay in confirming 16 as the age of consent for homosexual acts. The action was organized by the Kiwi Connection and the Gay Solidarity Group.

new zealand delays vote on age of consent

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — The Parliament has postponed the final reading of a portion of the Homosexual Law Reform Bill that would lower the age of consent for homosexual acts to 16. Lesbian and gay activists fear the delay may mean Members of Parliament intend to reverse their March 26 vote equalizing the age of consent for homosexual and heterosexual acts. The final reading of a bill is usually a formality.

The most significant amendment to the age of consent bill is one excluding the Armed Forces from its provision. Under the Armed Forces Discipline Act, army personnel will continue to be punished by up to three years of imprisonment for homosexual activity.

Parliament is currently considering part two of the Homosexual Law Reform Bill, which proposes to extend anti-discrimination protections to gay men and lesbians under the Human Rights Commission Act.

The Right in New Zealand has mounted a vociferous attack on the bill, and has received aid and direction from U.S. Christian right wing groups, including the Salvation Army, Christians for Reagan and the Religious Round Table. (See GCN, Vol. 13, No. 10.)

— Kendall Lovett and Stephanie Poggi



Susan Wilson

Adrienne Rich

adrienne rich receives \$25,000 award

CHICAGO — Lesbian feminist poet Adrienne Rich received the largest money award given to U.S. poets on June 6. The \$25,000 Ruth Lilly Poetry Prize was presented jointly by the Modern Poetry Association and the American Council for the Arts.

According to the *Chicago Tribune*, Rich said she planned to give some of the money to "the communities that help me to live and survive and do my work...I feel a strong debt and responsibility to my communities, among them the women's liberation and the gay and lesbian movements, as well as the coalition movements that have sprung up in response to the political pressures of the '80s."

Rich has spoken strongly through her poetry and her prose against racism, anti-semitism, and the oppression of disabled people as well as against sexism and homophobia.

Her works include *Of Woman Born* (Norton, N.Y.) and the just-published *Your Native Land, Your Life* (Norton). Her new book of poetry, *Blood, Bread and Poetry* (Norton) will be published this fall.

— Stephanie Poggi

reproductive rights include lesbian/gay foster parenting

BOSTON — All lesbians, gay men and their friends interested in working to defeat the anti-abortion amendment on the ballot this November are invited to an organizing meeting, June 30, 7 p.m., at the U-Mass. Boston lounge, 100 Arlington St.

The meeting is sponsored by the Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2) of Boston, a group fighting attacks on all reproductive rights, including the state's discriminatory foster care policy, cuts in AFDC benefits, lack of childcare, restriction on abortions for teenagers and forced sterilization.

Activities planned to combat the amendment, which would cut off Medicaid funding for abortions, include tabling in a variety of locations and planning for a major rally in October.

For more information, call (617)426-4469.

— Stephanie Poggi

girlfriends at the prom

SALINAS, CA — When two high school women here decided to go to their senior prom together, the student council got huffy. Although Stephanie Salgado and Marie Hawkins had gathered 300 signatures from classmates in favor, the student council voted 29-2 to bar the best-friends from the prom.

"They [the council] felt it would break tradition," the pair's lawyer, Phyllis M. Turner, told the *National Journal*. But "there was no written policy" keeping same-sex couples out. "One [student] said it would be okay if they were gay, but couldn't understand why two straight people would want to go together."

Apparently school principal Bill Evans and the school board couldn't grasp it either, as both agreed to uphold the council's decision.

Salgado and Hawkins finally took their case to Superior Court, where the day before the May 10 prom, Judge Richard M. Silver issued a temporary restraining order allowing the two students to attend. The judge "applied a balancing-of-harm standard," said Turner, weighing in their favor the fact that Salgado and Hawkins would not have another high school prom.

With the go-ahead to put on their dancing shoes Hawkins appeared at the prom in a black tuxedo with a top hat and Salgado came decked out in a formal gown. According to Turner, the two women "were never asked by any boys to dance," but they had a wonderful time.

— Stephanie Poggi

italian mourners force priest to bless gay man

TURIN, Italy — When a Roman Catholic priest refused to conduct a funeral mass for a murdered gay man, 200 enraged mourners went after him. The priest was dragged from his church office to the altar, according to the *Windy City Times*, and was forced to bless the coffin of Bruno Deiana.

— Stephanie Poggi

Following pressure from MCAD

Cambridge, Boston Schools Revise Aids Policy

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — Questions about the legality of AIDS policies for school employees in Boston and Cambridge have led to major revisions in the policies. Local activists herald the changes as positive steps against AIDS discrimination.

Both Cambridge and Boston school departments instituted AIDS policies last fall which required employees who contracted the disease to notify school authorities. In addition, the Cambridge policy required that school employees with AIDS undergo a medical review as a contingent to remaining employed.

The Massachusetts Committee Against Discrimination (MCAD), which charged that the AIDS policies violated Massachusetts' handicapped law, successfully worked with both school departments to revise policies. "A person

[with another disability] is not required to self-identify [as having that disability,]" said MCAD Commissioner Kathleen Allen. "There's no reason to treat AIDS differently than other disabilities."

While two GCN sources said MCAD threatened to sue the school departments if they didn't change the policies, Allen did not confirm or deny this allegation.

Boston's new policy states, "The Boston School Department recognized that employees with life-threatening illnesses, including, but not limited to cancer, heart disease and AIDS, may wish to continue to work. As long as employees are able to meet acceptable performance standards, and medical evidence indicates that their condition is not a threat to themselves or others, employees

shall be assured of continued employment."

The new policy for Cambridge asks "any employee with AIDS who believes that his or her condition may be a threat to students, staff or parents" to "have his or her personal physician contact the office of the Commissioner of Health to verify the degree [of the threat] and steps which might help prevent accidental transmission."

Cambridge School Committee member Frances Parker acknowledged that accidental transmis-

sion by a school employee to a student or another employee is virtually impossible. The purpose of the former AIDS policy and the current one, she said, is to find a "balance between the concerns of parents and the legitimate concerns of people who might have the disease." Parker also stressed that AIDS education within the school system should be a top priority.

Commenting on the new policies, Kevin Cathcart of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders

said, "I'm very pleased that these policies have been changed. The change sends out a strong message to other school departments in the Commonwealth and other employers, that discrimination on the basis of AIDS will not be tolerated in this state. It's important that MCAD is willing to take a strong role in these cases, particularly given the role that the Justice Department has chosen to take on the federal level [regarding AIDS discrimination.]" (See related story on page 1.)

Justice Dept. Memo

Continued from page 1

fect workplaces that receive no federal funds. According to Abby Rubinfeld, legal director for Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in New York, the opinion actually carries little weight because it has not yet been tested in a court of law and because it "blatantly contradicts health findings of both the Centers for Disease Control and the Department of Health and Human Services."

In New York, where Attorney General Robert Abrams issued a press release condemning the Justice Department memorandum, state civil rights laws prohibiting discrimination are expected to prevail, according to his office. Abrams' press release accused the Justice Department of adopting a "tortured reading" of Section 504 "in order to exclude a disfavored group from coverage."

In Boston, the City Council adopted a resolution on June 26, by a vote of 8-4, that emphasizes the strength of state and city law to protect any person facing discrimination. The resolution, drafted by gay councilor David Scondras, "advises employers to adhere to guidelines established by the City and State Departments of Health and the Centers for Disease Control regarding employment." However, in an allusion to the possible effects of the Justice Department statement, the resolution concludes, "until the Justice Department clarifies its ruling so as to indicate that people with AIDS and those perceived to be at risk are protected from discrimination, those who undergo AIDS-related diagnostic procedures should seriously consider the need for absolute anonymity."

— filed from Boston

Merle Miller Dies at 67

By Michael Bronski

Merle Miller, best known as a biographer of Harry Truman and Lyndon Johnson, and the author of *On Being Different*, died on June 10 at Danbury Hospital of peritonitis after an abdominal operation. He was 67 years old and lived in Brewster, New York.

Born in Montour, Iowa, Miller became noted for his writings, both non-fiction and novels, in the late 1940s. In 1964, he and Evan Rhodes met great popular success with *Only You, Dick Daring*, a scathing attack on the television industry. In 1974, with the publication of *Plain Speaking: An Oral History of Harry Truman*, Miller reached the best seller lists and gained the critical approval which had so far eluded him.

But perhaps his most noted and influential piece was a long article written for the *New York Times* in January of 1971, entitled "What it Means to be a Homosexual." The piece was reprinted in book form with an afterward later that year as *On Being Different*.

"What it Means to be a Homosexual" was written as a response to an article by Joseph Epstein which appeared in *Harper's* in 1970. Epstein, a noted intellectual and New York literary critic and editor said, among other things, that "...If I had the power to do so, I would wish homosexuality off the face of the earth. I would do so because I think that it brings infinitely more pain than pleasure to those who are forced to live with it." Although there was outrage in the gay community — Gay Activists Alliance convened one of their first zaps because of it — the article was generally praised by the mainstream liter-



ary and political establishments.

When Miller, who was not yet out as a gay man, asked Victor Navasky, an editor of the *New York Times Magazine*, his opinion of the Epstein piece, Navasky replied that it was brilliant... "at a time when everybody else is saying that we have to understand and accept homosexuals, Epstein is saying..." Navasky never finished his sentence because Miller chose this time and place (a small French restaurant) to come out, as he began screaming "Epstein is saying genocide for queers."

Although published only 15 years ago, it is difficult to imagine the impact of Miller's response to Epstein in the *New York Times*. It was only a few years earlier that the paper of record had consented to even print the word "homosexual" (they have yet to use "gay" and have just consented to "Ms."). Miller's article marked the first time that a nationally known magazine or newspaper printed

anything positive by and about a gay person. The fact that the *New York Sunday Times* goes into innumerable homes, libraries and schools gave the piece a circulation, and a respectability, never before garnered by pro-gay advocates.

It was also important because Miller — a writer of some note — was willing, and able, to publicly come out as a gay person, risking many of his personal and professional relationships. In 1971, it was a step which took immense courage and strength. (Of course, things are not so different now. Remember that Rock Hudson did not come out on his own, Perry Ellis was never out and many other people with AIDS, in the entertainment and fashion industries, have not come out. The world is filled with people, both famous and not, who are firmly implanted and imprisoned in their closets.)

Reading *On Being Different* today is a strange experience. In many ways it is apologetic and wishy-washy. Although Miller is very supportive of Gay Activists Alliance and the Gay Liberation Front, he clearly saw himself as totally separate. In some ways his book is a view from the outside, written by someone, who although active in the anti-war movement, was not about to become involved in the daily struggle for gay liberation. But it is also written with a knowledge of the pain, the struggle and the joys of being an outsider to straight society. What Miller has presented to us, and what is still significant for us today, is a personal testimony of self-discovery and the first steps toward self-acceptance.

At 6th anniversary celebration

Coming out Vital, Rustin Tells BWMT-Boston

By Craig Jackson

BOSTON — Black and White Men Together (BWMT) of Boston celebrated its sixth anniversary over Memorial Day weekend with a program featuring Black gay civil rights activist Bayard Rustin and music by Black concert pianist Fredericka King. A discussion on "coming out," a potluck and the annual banquet at the Lenox rounded out the weekend festivities.

Opening with the statement that society's treatment of lesbians and gay men is the "barometer and litmus paper" of its commitment to human rights, Rustin addressed approximately 20 BWMT members. He particularly stressed the importance of coalition building, of struggling against discrimination within the gay and lesbian community, and the significance of "coming out." Noting that "coming out" is not easy, Rustin referred to his own experience of being "dragged out of the closet, kicking and screaming" 20 years ago by "gay-baiter" Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-SC). At the time Rustin was the principal organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. But in response to Thurmond's baiting, other members of the Southern Christian Leadership

Conference minimized his role.

Today, Rustin said, "coming out" is still difficult and still of huge importance: "The most fundamental question before the gay community is not whether we get more human rights, get better respect, etc.; more important is if we can get all of our brothers and sisters out of the closet and into political activity." The success of the gay/lesbian community's struggle for rights depends, he said, on its self-acceptance and willingness to fight injustice. Rustin said the psychological security of injustice must be forsaken for the psychological insecurity of fighting for justice.

Rustin also emphasized the building of coalitions, not only to win a national lesbian/gay rights bill, but to win other progressive changes in society. He added that the lesbian/gay community must continue to fight the prejudice and discrimination that exists within its own ranks.

Concert pianist Fredericka King followed Rustin with a selection of works from Black male composers, including William Grant Still, George Walker, Nathaniel Kett, Hale Smith and John W. Work, Jr.



Community Voices

Pride Prompts Passions

thank you pride committee!

Dear GCN:

I wanted to publicly thank the organizers of Gay Pride...so will you please print this letter? Thank you.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!! The march and rally were well organized, well executed and a hell of a lot of fun. You created a space for all of us to see each other and relish in our numbers and diversity. I appreciate the time and more time you put into this important event. It was wonderful without gate donations or fences.

Lots of connections are made at Pride that wouldn't exist otherwise — meeting a co-worker, meeting your boss (!) or running into childhood friends. These benefits from Pride last all year — and sometimes longer. And it wouldn't have happened this year without you.

Thanks again,
Maryanne Kirkbride
Jamaica Plain, MA

a perfect irony for commemorating stonewall

Dear GCN:

And another year's Gay and Lesbian Pride Day is behind us. How glorious to be with 33,990 other queers. There are two events, though, which mar my memories and which I feel compelled to respond to.

The first being the warm reception that I saw the Gay cops from N.Y. getting, and the second being the coverings which were placed on the walls outside the Statehouse, where we were to place our "Foster Equality" stickers in protest of the foster care policy.

Need I remind anyone about where Gay and Lesbian Pride got its start? Stonewall — the revolting queens of a N.Y.C. gay bar, when the police came in to harass/beat them yet again. Do these cops who joined us Saturday not beat up and harass Third World people like every other cop, because they are gay? Do they not enforce the laws that protect our racist, sexist, homophobic, classist, etc. etc. system, because they have stood up and said "Stop harassing gays!" Do they do it today?

Being gay does not mean they are absolved of their role as protectors of a socio-economic structure that oppresses millions and millions of people. Why are we saying "Oh hurray, gay cops?!" Yes it takes courage to come out (even if this is Boston and they're from N.Y.) and we do come from all walks of life, but I personally prefer to call a straight man who challenges the system and his role in it my "brother," than a gay cop. I do not cheer for gay cops, I tolerate them.

As for protecting the sacred walls of the Statehouse from marauding dykes and fags armed with...stickers (-eek!-), I cannot think of a more perfect irony for commemorating Stonewall. In memory of a day of empowerment, our fellow gay men and lesbians put up plastic and fabric, so we in our fury and rage could place our stickers on these drop cloths. At the end of the day the cloths were removed and no trace of our passing remained.

"Yes, put up your stickers — feel defiant, however,...please be neat, cooperative and above all, futile." Impotent rage is all too often the calling card of oppressed peoples — so why would members of our own community possibly encourage this?

Did they want this day of celebration to be without incident so that we would not have to remember that we are oppressed, or were they afraid if there was conflict that the media would make us out as lawless banshees? Or maybe we just don't want to ruin our good, productive relationship with the Statehouse, especially in light of our recent victories...such as the homophobic foster care policy and the overwhelming defeat of the gay and lesbian rights bill.

Whatever the reason, I find it infuriating, and pathetic, that on a day to commemorate an uprising we are encouraged by some in our own community to be nice, to be orderly, to be disempowered.

Forward ever,
Shastine Keeney
Cambridge, MA

balancing our pride and our fear

Dear GCN:

When I went to Gay Pride Day Saturday, I wore lots of buttons and stickers, a fairly explicit T-shirt, I was surrounded by 34,000 other lesbian and gay people, and I felt great. There was unity and support and pride. Then, the show was over, people started going home, and I walked through the Common to the nearest "T" stop. The difference was immediate and visceral. The people on the benches, on the paths — these were not *our* people. I stopped, and took off my buttons, and put on my jacket over my T-shirt.

But when I got inside the station, I saw two people there, a man and a woman. *They* were both wearing "Foster Equality" stickers — openly, for all to see. I felt ashamed of my fear. So I took out my "Gay Community News" button, and pinned it to my jacket, and so rode home. Of course, nothing happened. No one attacked me, no one even looked at me funny. But it made me think.

It's a fine and important thing for us to come together, and give and receive support and strength. There's also a deeper need for us to be proud of what we are when we're isolated, out in the "Real World." I want to be able to say, "Sure, I wear a Celtics hat — I'm a fan; and I'm not ashamed to wear a Jewish star — that's part of what I am, and I'm proud to wear my lambda and my GCN and lesbian buttons — *that's what I am, too!*" But every day, every moment, we make decisions — to be out at this moment with these people — or not. How do we balance the inner pride against not only the prejudice, but our own paranoia and fear?

Jan R. Fielding
Revere, MA

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPPACED and limited to five typed pages. Send to Community Voices, GGN, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

thanks to AAC and all who stuck it to the duke

Dear GGN:

We are writing to thank the many thousands of lesbians and gay men and the supportive straight folks who participated in our "Stick It To The Duke" action in front of the State House during this year's Gay Pride March. It was a fabulous successful action which expressed our continuing resistance to Gov. Michael Dukakis's anti-gay, anti-child, misogynist and racist foster care policy. If you took "Foster Equality" stickers home with you, please use them!! In particular, we encourage you to sticker Boston *Globe* newspaper boxes.

We want also to express our thanks and appreciation to the AIDS Action Committee. Though we have had our disagreements with AAC in the past concerning Dukakis's appearances at certain events, the sights and sounds of the AIDS Action Committee contingent marching past the State House chanting "Foster Equality Now" lifted our spirits and energized us for our sticker action.

Please watch for notices concerning upcoming actions sponsored by GLDC. Despite the wet noodle opposition offered by Republicans to Dukakis re-election machine, Gov. Mike *will* be on the campaign trail this fall. And so will we! Please join us at Duke Watch actions around the state.

Again, thanks to all.
For the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee and with much gay pride,
Sue Hyde
Cambridge, MA

damn those peacemakers!

Dear GGN:

I am writing to deplore the behavior of the 36,000 peaceful Lesbian/Gay Pride demonstrators who ruined an otherwise violent confrontation with the Capitol police.

Indeed,
Margaret Cerullo
Cambridge, MA

voter registration: incompetence and bigotry?

GCN received this copy of a letter to Mr. Benjamin Thompson, Commissioner of Boston's Election Department.

Dear Ben:

As Chair of the Boston Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance I'm writing to you to express my extreme displeasure with the way the Elections Department has handled the assignment of voter registrars for the Gay Pride Festival for the past two years.

Last year the Alliance counted over two hundred people who signed up to be registered as Boston voters at the Pride Festival, but somehow the registrars managed to "lose" all but seventy-three applications somewhere between Boston Common and City Hall. "Accidents" do happen, of course, and the gay community tended to give the registrars the benefit of the doubt.

On June 2 of this year I called the elections department and spoke to Everett Shephard, requesting four or five registrars for the 1986 Pride Festival on Boston Common and explained that we were anticipating a crowd of some 25,000 people. For that number of people, four or five registrars seemed a reasonable request. Councilor David Scondras forwarded the necessary petition with the ten signatures as required. One week later John Donovan, Jr. called and claimed that he could only provide *two* registrars. On June 14, only one showed up. Mr. Douglas Butler was incredibly cooperative and worked without stopping for over three hours; he even offered to stay beyond the 4:00 PM quitting time. The lines were long all afternoon and at least several hundred potential voters walked away from the table in disgust.

There are only two possible conclusions to be drawn; either the Elections Department is incredibly incompetent, or it has taken upon itself a policy of deliberately sabotaging the registration of gay and lesbian voters. Whatever the reason, the Elections Department in particular and the Flynn Administration in general is receiving a very black eye in the gay community because of this consistently arrogant and uncooperative attitude toward our potential voters.

In 1986 there is no excuse for either incompetence or bigotry in the Elections Department. I request that you meet with a small delegation from the Alliance at your earliest convenience, and, since the Elections Department is either unable or unwilling to provide our community with adequate registrars, I urge you to initiate a program of encouraging qualified members of the gay and lesbian community to become voter registrars. The Alliance would be happy to provide you with a list of those willing to act as registrars in the future.

I look forward to your response.
Sincerely,
William J. Hutchinson, Chair
Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance
Boston, MA

**Next GLDC Meeting
Tuesday July 1**

The Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee will be holding its next coordinating committee meeting — open to new members — on **Tuesday July 1, 7:30 p.m.** in Jamaica Plain (2 blocks from the Green St. orange line T-stop). A new members' orientation will be held from 7-7:30. This meeting will cover GLDC plans for the summer and actions for the fall. Come and join in!! Call 522-4368 for more information and meeting location.

GayCommunityNews

Cover design: Ina Cohen

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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The paper is published weekly (except the last week of April, August and December), with a double issue the last week of June by the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is \$29. ISSN: 0147-0728. Member New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, COSMEP member.

GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 7229, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Volumes 1-12 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$30/volume. Write GCN/Microfilm for more information.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl. Boston, MA 02111

Speaking Out

Do Not Deny My Right to be Republican

By Robert Ebersole

Last year, the Democratically controlled Massachusetts House of Representatives overwhelmingly defeated the gay rights bill. The National Democratic Party disenfranchised gay caucuses as well as other minority caucuses. Our Democratic state governor ordered the removal of two foster children from the home of two loving gay men, requested inadequate AIDS funding, and has never appointed an openly gay man or lesbian to his administration.

Is the Democratic Party on our side? No, it is on its own side! The Democratic Party will listen to our community only because gay men and lesbians have worked within the party, have lobbied legislators and public officials, and have brought out the vote for supportive candidates.

Until recently, the Republican Party could write off the gay community as a bunch of liberal leftists. As more of us gay Republicans come out, the party leadership can no longer ignore that we are within their ranks. They can no more avoid our issues than can our community fail to recognize that the current Republican president was re-elected by voters in 49 states and that the United States Senate is controlled by the Republican Party.

The only way to get power in the American political system is to turn the system's rules to our advantage. Our power will come through the ballot box. Run for town or city ward committee. Run for town office — be it Tree Warden, Selectmen or Dog Officer. Seek to be appointed to a commission in a city. That is where the training ground is for future political influence.

It is one of government's major responsibilities to insure that all Americans have an equal opportunity so we all have the chance to determine our own destinies. *Democracy only guarantees opportunity, not success.* Who first made that statement? Jesse Jackson. *Democracy only guarantees opportunity, not success.* The Republican Party, just as the Democratic Party, will not move because of moral persuasion, but because of votes. Just think how far the Democratic Party has come on our issues since the 1968 convention held in Mayor Daley's Chicago. Remember the guns, tear gas and militia which were part of that fiasco?

At the 1984 Republican National Convention there was an organized gay presence. There were public and private receptions for gay and gay-supportive delegates. The press actively sought out gay Republicans. While no one expected a pro-gay plank in the platform to be passed, there were successful lobbying efforts to stop an anti-gay plank and to mellow the pro-family proposals.

Our struggle is a gradual one. We will not gain equal rights overnight. It is a step by step, methodical process. Why do I encourage activism in the Republican Party? Those who insist that our rights as individuals be linked to left liberal politics ignore the fact that the gay community is diverse and represents all facets of the American society.

As a gay man I am concerned. I am concerned with gay rights. I am concerned with

proper funding for AIDS care, education and research. I am concerned with women's rights. I am concerned with issues that affect members of the gay and lesbian community including discrimination against people of color and anti-semitism.

As a Republican, I am also concerned with other issues. Issues which affect all of us — gay or non-gay. I am concerned with the need for equal rights for all Americans. I am concerned with the need for a strong and healthy economy. I am concerned with the need for a strong American defense. Our community must rise above personal political differences and welcome those with differing views into our struggle for our lives and our rights. We need to dialogue about our differences. We need to agree to disagree. But we need to talk. Just as you do not want to be denied your right to be gay or lesbian, do not deny my right to be Republican or to hold views that are different from yours.

I call upon other leaders in the gay and lesbian community to: capitalize on our contacts. Capitalize on the media attention which gay Republicans currently create. Capitalize on the new energy and resources which can be provided to our community. We need to be politically successful, more than we need to be "politically correct."

I am entitled to my opinions. So are others in the gay community. Governor Dukakis may or may not be your candidate. President Reagan may or may not have been your candidate. That's not what is important. What is important is that we gay men and lesbians have fought to be accepted. Fought to be given our rights which should be ours anyway. Fought to be given the right to be different in a society that says we should all conform to the norm. We have the right to be who we are. That's how we will go forward together.

Robert Ebersole is the Town Clerk, Tax Collector and Treasurer for the town of Lunenburg Massachusetts. He currently serves on the Executive Board of Concerned Americans for Individual Rights, an organization for conservative to moderate gay men and lesbians. He delivered this speech at Boston's Pride rally, June 14, 1986.

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

Community Voices

the rest comes from you

Dear GCN:

AIDS is not going away. Every week new headlines highlight the rapid rate of increase in new AIDS cases, AIDS' spread into new populations, and the threats that AIDS hysteria as well as the disease pose to us all. So, it's no surprise that AIDS ACTION's costs for providing support services to people diagnosed with AIDS and ARC, and the costs for presenting AIDS educational materials to high risk individuals, health care providers, and members of business, civic, and religious groups keep escalating.

Here in Massachusetts we are fortunate that both the city of Boston and the state are forward-looking in providing monies for AIDS programs, including those of AIDS ACTION. (Federal monies earmarked for AIDS goes almost entirely toward vaccine research.) But city and state monies pay for less than 45% of AIDS ACTION's expenses. Pace-setting corporations and foundations will add another 5%.

The rest comes from you. That means that for the next fiscal year (July '86 to June '87) AIDS ACTION will need over \$725,000 from donations. An enormous part of those donations comes from your participation in AIDS ACTION sponsored events like the recent Barbara Cook concert, the gala dance at the Cyclorama, the play about AIDS called *WARREN*, and the *FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE* pledge walk.

AIDS ACTION produces events with strong educational components that appeal to a wide variety of different people in all income brackets. We appreciate the ongoing, community-wide support both from unsolicited donations and from support of AIDS ACTION events.

It is up to each of us to ensure that all people affected by the AIDS crisis get the support they need, and that we provide the kinds of education that will help prevent its spread and give health care providers and all of us timely information on how we can respond in a humane and compassionate manner.

Sincerely,
Larry Killian, AAC
Boston, MA

research into women's sexual imagery

Dear GCN:

I am currently undertaking research into Women's Sexual Imagery (both heterosexual and lesbian) and am particularly interested in imagery made by women for women, in photographic media (both historical and contemporary). I am interested in hearing from anyone who has information on this subject and who would be interested in sharing research information and suggestions. Please write to: WSIP c/o The Toronto Photographers Workshop, 80 Spadina Ave., Rm. 310, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 2J3.

Eventually I hope to compile this visual information into a series of slide shows for use as introductory material for a Women's Sexual Imagery Project for the production of photographs by a group of women.

Any assistance that you may be able to provide will be very gratefully received. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Cyndra MacDowall
Toronto, Ontario

'community'? how about hiring gay ex-cons?

Dear GCN:

The main concern here in Michigan with 'coming out' is obtaining and keeping a job. I myself have a skilled trade so I will be self-employed as I was before my time here. The majority of prisoners, however, do not have any skills. Therefore they have a hard time finding a job. Here you are released on parole and have 90 days to find employment, otherwise you can lose your parole. A gay prisoner has twice as much trouble finding a job. Gay business people could hire gay ex-cons (or help them find work) and have an employee who is grateful for a chance. If for no other reason than because he needs work to remain a free man.

While I have your ear, I would like to ask if anyone there would like to write me for a while. I prefer a dominant disciplinarian daddy type, age 40 to 55, physical condition not important as long as you have a good attitude about yourself.

Thanks a lot for the paper!

David R. Mosher
Box E - 178403
Jackson, MI 49204

divide and control

Dear GCN:

I thought the "Speaking Out" entitled "GCN: Still for women and men — or no?" was very good. Having been around since the 60s I've noticed that "divide and conquer" is now "divide and control." All the government needs to do is to convince people that one group's "rights" can only be addressed if they "divorce" from other "too radical" or "less pressing issues" and they win by default. That's why there's been no more progress, instead we're in a backwards slide. In order to "fight" (with words, education, protest, laws) and win, people need power. Small groups of separate minorities have no power and can be

ignored or tossed empty promises. If we are ever to live in a peaceful, free and just society we have to demand these for every person — consistently, at all times, in all places. To do that, "diversity" becomes a creative necessity — not a choice. We can only protect the rights of one of us by fighting for every human. As long as there are people who consider one group's "rights" more valid than those of another, we will *all* keep losing. And we cannot afford to lose this time.

Diversity in nature, creativity and imagination are what make this a wonderful place to enjoy a life — if we can win the "right" for each one of us to freedom and justice.

Sincerely,
Jude Vivers
Plymouth, NH

Extra! Extra!

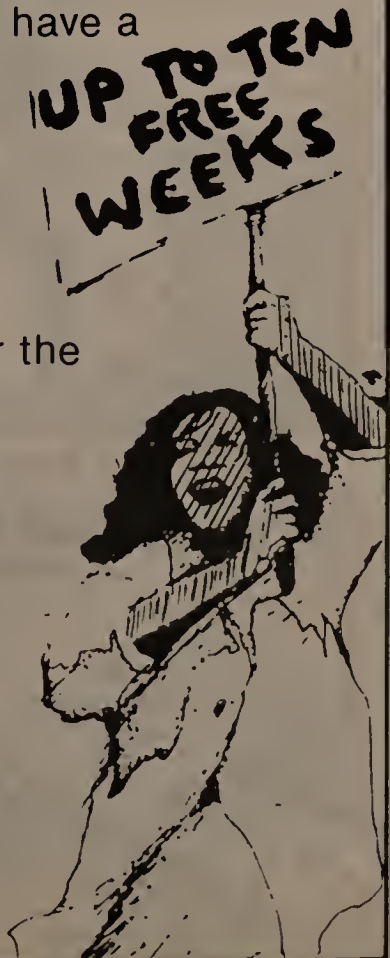
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Photo: SUSAN WILSON

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ASL Interpreted by
Laurie Rothfeld

*Lacks Perspective of Past Decade***A Glimpse of Lesbian Separatism****So Precious a Place**, a video documentary by Cecilia Denning. 56 min., VHS, in color, with sound. 1985. Sweeping Axe ProDykations, Box 242, Greensboro, VT 05841

By Jo Scheiderman

So Precious a Place, a video by Cecilia Denning premiered in Cambridge two weeks ago to an SRO crowd. The hour-long video (Denning's thesis project in completion of a Masters program at Emerson College), is an articulate argument for the preservation of women-only spaces.

So Precious a Place consists of four interviews — with singer/songwriter Alix Dobkin, The Saints collective, two members of ASIA (Asian Sisters in Action) and the owners of Greenhope farm in Vermont. Denning has organized her material into several sections that she has distinguished from one another by sub-titles like: Values, Race and Class, What About the Men, Vigilance and Visions. This organization works well, and the interweaving of the four interviews gives the viewer the impression that a real dialogue has taken place between these women, even though we know it has not.

The video has very few technical problems — a real plus for a student production. In fact the only technical flaw was in some of the editing. Denning chose at times to use a voice-under of an interview under footage of another scene that includes a low second soundtrack. This worked well when the second soundtrack was of Alix Dobkin singing, but when the scene and soundtrack were of discussions or meetings, the second soundtrack became distracting and the whole section

became unintelligible. Aside from this minor technical flaw, the video was visually interesting. Denning shot a lot of footage of meetings, concerts, marches, life at home, etc., which she edited over the interviews quite successfully.

Unfortunately, however, I can't say that I liked the video. In her introduction, Denning explained that the definition of separatism in the video came from the words of the interviewees, and that she tried as much as possible to portray these women's opinions. For me, this was the main problem with the video. It simply did not seem to have a point of view other than that women-only space is necessary.



Cecilia Denning, videographer

I wanted more history of the separatist movement. The video gave us only a tiny glimpse from The Saints who talked about the importance in the early '70s of establishing a women's bar. But the whole history of separatism as a political belief was barely addressed. I wanted Denning to have interviewed at least one of the many lesbians who split from all things male in the '70s and shaved her head. I wanted to hear what the debate had been about back then, why separatism fell out of fashion, what constitutes the difference between being a separatist and

wanting access to women-only space.

Also, like other feminist and gay videos that have been shown recently, — *the Families We Choose*, and *Choosing Children* — *So Precious a Place* is political rather than personal. "Stars" describing political ideology makes for boring copy after a while. Despite apparent differences in opinion among the interviewees, the viewer never feels the depth of conflict that has surrounded the issue of separatism. We are told that one of the women of ASIA sees separatism as potentially racist while one of The Saints does not, but we never really learn what separatism *is* or why people have such strong feelings about it. The video touches only lightly on the issues that, in fact, caused separatism as a political ideology to be reconsidered — racism, class issues, economic survival and mothers of male children.

A final word about the presentation. The video was shown using a projection television and a standard screen. The screen was slightly warped, and the projection television washed out the color. I would have preferred several monitors.

But the video is far from a bust. *So Precious a Place*, though imperfect, does make a good teaching tool on the need for women-only space. The audience appeared to enjoy it, hooting and whistling at appropriate times. We lesbians need videos that validate us, validate our culture, and *So Precious a Place* does that. But it doesn't give much insight into separatism, and it goes on too long.

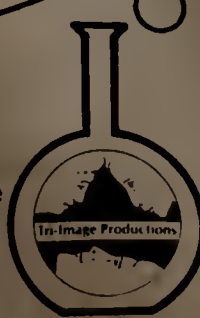
Correction:

In our Vol. 23 No. 48 issue dated June 28, 1986, the bottom center spread photos were not credited as they should have been. Both photos are by Nancy Wechsler. Our apologies to our readers and to Nancy.

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A Range of Quality Presented

Local Playwrights Address AIDS

The Hospice Worker. By Susan Dana Lawrence. Presented by Playwrights Platform. May 30 and June 5 at Emerson College, Boston.

Hysteria. By Thomas W. Sypek. Presented by the Writer's Ensemble. June 2-7 at the Lyric Stage, Boston.

By Don Hill

For the past several seasons, Boston theaters and other producing organizations have taken a healthy interest in the presentation of the original work of local playwrights. Unfortunately, these works have been for the most part disappointing — only occasionally are works presented which defy the notion that all potentially talented playwrights have been driven from Boston. Two recent works are noteworthy since they illustrate the range of quality to be seen among these works, and in addition, are both part of that growing genre of plays about AIDS.

Susan Dana Lawrence's *The Hospice Worker* is the story of a woman's relationship with a dying AIDS patient. The work is actually more concerned with emotional rather than with physical death — Stephanie, a young, middle class liberal, begins her work as a hospice worker with Edward, a flamboyant, racist and sexist gay AIDS patient who she has been led to believe is suffering from leukemia. After some false starts and hesitation on both sides, Edward and

Stephanie begin to build a relationship based on their common emotional crises: Edward has been deserted by a fearful lover who refuses to see him; Stephanie's relationship with her husband is coming to an end.

Lawrence and director Steven O'Donnell wisely avoid the histrionics one would expect from a novice playwright given such a complex and emotionally charged plot. There is no more weeping, wailing and trashing than one would expect from the rational, well educated, bourgeois characters that Lawrence creates. This is, after all, Back Bay, not Mattapan.

The characters are not, however, given equal time. The women characters — Stephanie and her slightly older surrogate mother Miriam — are more clearly and fully developed than either of the male characters. Both Edward — the sharp tongued sissy — and Stephanie's husband Jeff — the boozing, boring, middle-aged breeder — are essentially one-dimensional. Realistic maybe, but one-dimensional nevertheless. Both roles are salvaged somewhat by the performances of David Baird (Edward) and Craig Carter (Jeff) who perform admirably. Tricia Ialeggio as Stephanie and Marjorie Burren as Miriam are both exceptional.

The most disappointing aspect of the production was the decision to present the work in a series of



Tricia Ialeggio as a hospice worker and Craig Carter as her estranged husband listen to Steven O'Donnell, director of Susan Dana Lawrence's *The Hospice Worker*.

vignettes, a tactic one audience member described as "televisionesque." One hopes that Lawrence, who very effectively recreates dialogue and constructs dramatic situations, will concentrate on sustaining the action for longer periods and improving the transitions between these longer scenes, thus deepening the dramatic effect. Despite this reservation, *The Hospice Worker* is an enjoyable piece of work that clearly shows Lawrence's potential as a dramatic artist.

Hysteria, by Thomas W. Sypek, is billed as a work that "takes a futuristic look at the hypocrisy of a moral majority government confronted by the AIDS epidemic." Sound like a week-long mini-series? Sypek covers it in one act. In the course of forty-five minutes or so, totalitarian governments, the religious right and absent fathers all get soundly slapped. Trying to throw in everything except the kitchen sink, however, usually produces a disappointing product — as is the case here.

As the work opens, the audience

is introduced to a heterosexual couple and their ailing child. During the course of their conversation, we learn that the couple's child has AIDS and that the family is hiding out from the government which imprisons people with AIDS and carriers of the disease. Shortly afterward, a young woman enters who is also on the run since the father of the child she is carrying has been identified as a carrier. Finally, after all sorts of carrying on, including the death of one child, the birth of another and LOTS of screaming, the last of the characters, thinly veiled imitations of PTL's Jim and Tammy Faye, arrive. It seems the preacher is a carrier too.

What is most surprising about this whole mess is that there is not a gay person in sight. In Sypek's "futuristic world," either all gay people have already died of AIDS, they don't have the courage to fight against the system, or all gay people with AIDS have been cured and are hoarding the vaccine. The playwright gives little clue.

This play has problems other than this obvious one: the characters are at best stereotyped, the dialogue, plastic, and the jumble of elements combine to obscure the point of the play. All in all, not a pleasant theater experience.

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Bayard Rustin: Six Decades of Fighting for What We All Need

By Henry C. Chinn, Jr.

Bayard Rustin has been involved in movements for democratic social change for practically six decades. An activist in concerns affecting different races and oppressed minorities, in 1941 Rustin worked as a youth organizer of A. Philip Randolph's first March on Washington. He then served as field secretary to CORE, the Congress on Racial Equality.

Demonstrating a commitment to multi-racial solidarity, Rustin worked on behalf of Japanese-Americans interned during World War II. He also spent three years in the Lewisburg Penitentiary as a conscientious objector. Later, as chairman of the Free India Committee, Rustin traveled to India on several occasions, meeting with

representatives of the movement for Indian independence from Britain.

As the Civil Rights movement heated up, Rustin joined in the early freedom rides in the South. He helped Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. organize the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955, and became the major organizer of the 1963 March on Washington.

Rustin presently serves as director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute in New York City. He recently came to Boston to address the sixth anniversary of Black and White Men Together/Boston regarding his experiences as a gay Black man and his vision for gay activism today. I interviewed Mr. Rustin briefly before his presentation.

I will work with "X" group if "X" group is able to work with me. In order for us to, let us say, fight for things which Blacks need, we have to fight for things which many people need and not for what we need alone. If each group goes around fighting for only what it needs, it is never going to get the cooperation from other groups. And if it doesn't get the cooperation from other groups, it does not create a political atmosphere in which anyone can get anything.

Chinn: You are a living witness to the social transformation in the twentieth century of Black Americans. Could you comment on the development and the evolution of what you yourself have termed "the most dynamic social movement in American history." What brought it about and what stage are we presently at in its continuing transformation?

Rustin: Well, I think the transformation came about because Black people lost their fear and gained courage. There are many, many factors that were the cause of this. One, there were educated people and there was the factor of Black participation in two World Wars. Each time when the soldiers returned to the United States, they took a dim view of the circumstances that they would not necessarily have taken a dim view of before they left — because of experiences in Europe where they were very much at ease because they were treated with some respect.

There was, of course, the industrialization of the country. The fact that Blacks left the south was not a happenstance. Prior to World War I many Blacks wanted to come North. They would be met by a posse of armed men at the railway station and forced back to the farms. After 1920, very often they went to the farms with guns to force them out because the objective situation had changed. It was also the fact that Blacks were very organized in the trade unions. Now you add all these things in and a situation was being created for change.

I think the change which took place in the 60s was very important, and I do indeed believe it was the most radical change anywhere in the world in terms of a minority group struggling for its rights and achieving them. But the problem — and the reason so many people are distressed now — is that just as the country was prepared to receive Blacks, Blacks found they had [more] trouble moving up the scale as [than] most of the immigrants had who had come before them. And most of these immigrants have in fact moved up by virtue of selling, not their skills, but their muscle power.

Now, the tragedy is that by 1968, all the bills that were needed to give Blacks equality were passed, and now there is implementation to be done, and that is a very serious matter. But just at that moment, automation, cybernation, other forms of technological revolution — the way in which goods were being produced the way in which goods were being distributed through containers — all of these factors had a very negative effect on Blacks who had only muscle power. Uneducated people can not sell their muscle power like the automobile company that it using robots to build automobiles.

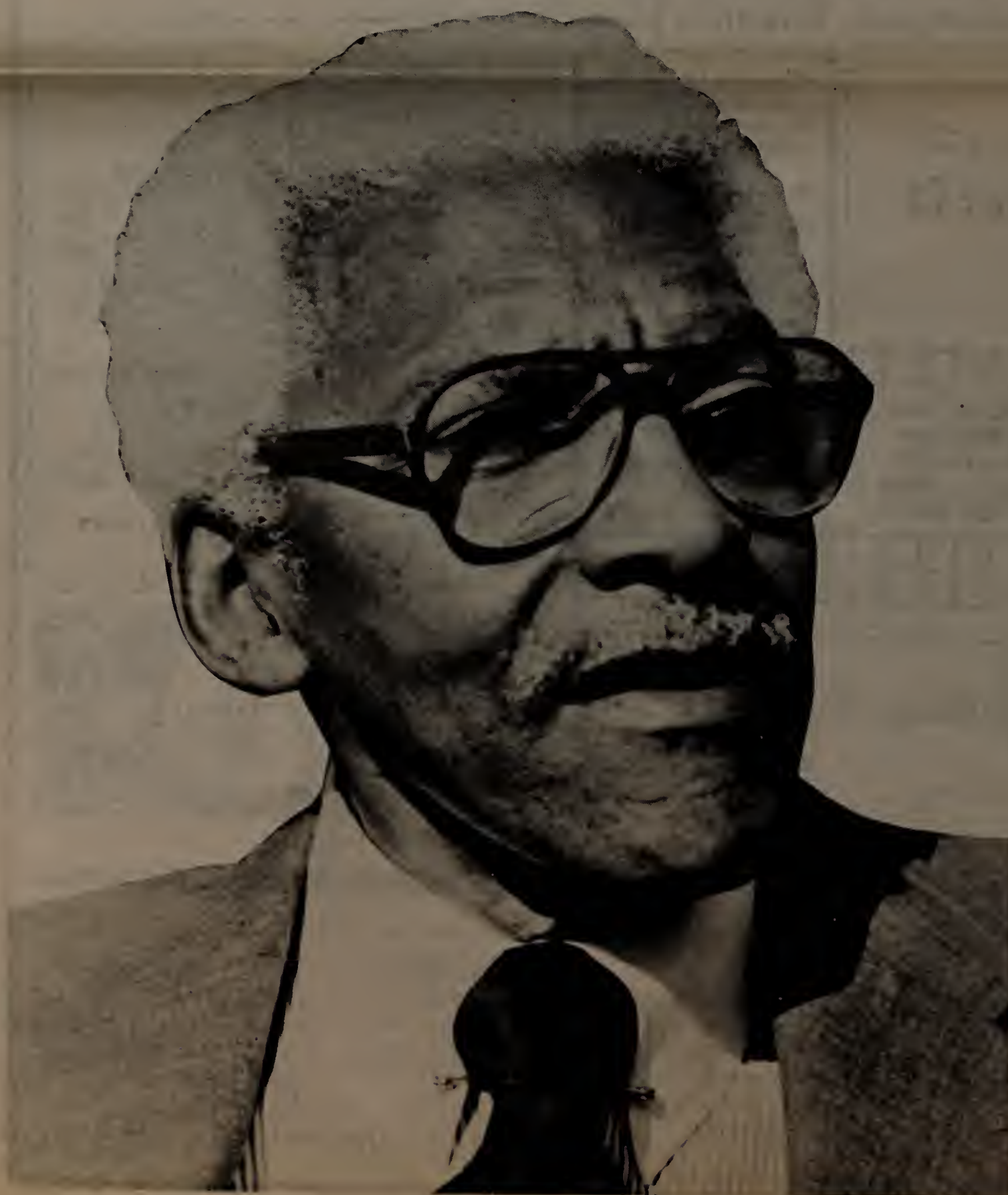
Then, in addition, you had the labor intensive industry going to Asia, Latin America and Africa. Therefore, by, great numbers of Blacks, who had made a living making clothes, hats, shoes, electronics, kitchen utensils, all of that kind of thing — that kind of production is moving overseas, so that I believe the basic problem is not now color. I believe that many, many whites are affected by these conditions, many other minorities who are not white are affected by these conditions. Color does indeed have some effect, but not so great an effect as do certain class considerations. So, if you consider the four things Blacks want most: housing, jobs, education and medical care, you could turn most of the young Blacks who are without skills white tomorrow, but they still would not get these four things anymore than whites will get them if they do not have educational skills. So the new thrust we have is not so much race as it is class.

Chinn: Where does that fall in your cyclical theory of Black history? Is that an added ingredient that was not there when you developed your theory?

Rustin: Well, I think that it was not that that situation was not readily developing. It was that until we had dealt with the most serious and immediate problem that was brutalizing us: color, it would have been unrealistic to have thought that Blacks would give attention to what had not yet become a compelling question for them. And, in fact, until this time, it was difficult for some organizations to face up to the new situation, not because they are stupid, but because it is very difficult for organizations to change their nature and to see new causal factors and to bring about new programs.

Chinn: In 1965, you were recorded as saying, "I reject the idea of working for the Negro as being impractical as well as immoral, if one does that alone." Could you explain what you meant by that statement?

Rustin: I mean that if you want to improve the condition for Black people, then you need to set up a coalition which includes more than Black people, because Blacks make up a little over one-tenth of the population.





ents, then it seems to me a very serious problem. However, this trend is also true of all kinds of people in our society, the difference is that people who are poor face certain kinds of wants. They want for food, they want for shelter, and they want most profoundly for space in which to be themselves. They need the absence of noise, someplace where they can be quiet.

On the other hand, there are some very rich, quite well off people who have very profound spiritual needs. They are not based on poverty or the absence of space. They may have parents in the house but the father may be so busy making money that he does not pay any attention to them — or he spends so many additional hours at the University or he travels so much. The nature of how the family is constructed and how it release tension to children is a universal thing in our society.

I think that social change is brought about in the same way regardless of the movement. You have to have numbers; and if numbers are important, then automatically the more gay people who get out of the closet, the better.

If we want some Civil Rights advocates to help us, that means we have to be looked upon by Civil Rights groups as a group that is going to help them.

tion and can bring about no legislation on their own. And therefore, if we want other people to join us in working for things which affect us, we have to be engaged in things which will improve their conditions, because a coalition is based on mutual interest.

I will work with "X" group if "X" group is able to work with me. So in order for us to, let us say, fight for things which Blacks need, we have to fight for things which many people need and not for what we need alone. If each group goes around fighting for only what it needs, it is never going to get the cooperation from other groups. And if it doesn't get the cooperation from other groups, it does not create a political atmosphere in which anyone can get anything.

Chinn: Robert Penn Warren has referred to you as, "a strange mixture of strength and sensitivity." Do you agree and is it hard for a Black man to balance these two characteristics given our past history in this country?

Rustin: Well, I think it is always hard for every human to balance strength and sensitivity; that is the eternal effort. I think people who have been greatly oppressed have done it and people who have not been oppressed have done it, so the balancing of these factors does not so much depend on objective factors as subjective factors. A woman like Harriet Tubman, a woman like Sojourner Truth, a man like Frederick Douglass. I think, regardless of their color, they had something which meant that they were people capable of making this balance.

I also believe that if one has those characteristics but also faces a lot of difficult situations, if one is able to overcome those difficult situations, one is strengthened to do those. But to put it upside down, every mistake that we make in life, if we have the strength to face what it means and in fact to decide to do something about it, rather than only becoming a problem, it becomes a great sense of strength. In other words, mistakes on the part of strong people who have certain sensitivity are the basis of both.

Chinn: You are the product of a fatherless home. Today you hear much concern expressed about this present trend in the Black community. How did you cope with it and did it in any way hinder your development?

Rustin: I think there have always been fatherless children, and it is not whether an individual can cope with being fatherless. I think people today who come from a home without a father would be in far greater danger than I was, because when I was born almost seventy-five years ago, the Black family was still an extended family. Many of us were still living in small towns and on farms. Well, if you had two aunts down the road, and a grandmother and grandfather to be surrogate father and mother, and if all of your brothers and aunts and uncles treat you as if they are your brothers and sisters, then you grow up totally surrounded by all the elements that are present where you have a father, mother, sister and brother, and that is what I had.

If people live in — and too many people to boot — live in a small apartment where many are not related, and if there is no sense of the ability to share because there are not enough aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents around to substitute for the absence of par-



Chinn: Another quote of yours, "It is in fact impossible to forge a creative long term social agenda based on ethnic, racial or sexual goals. To attempt such an agenda is self-defeating and reactionary and will ultimately impede the advancement both of society and of a particular group itself." Would you please apply this statement to the gay rights movement, and what are your thoughts about the gay rights movement?

Rustin: I think that social change is brought about in the same way regardless of the objective of the movement. You have to have numbers and if numbers are important then automatically the more gay people who get out of the closet, the better. So that would be one strategy.

If you want to be able to deal with the legislature in any of its forms, you have to have allies. So in addition to having numbers, you need coalitions. And if you are going to have coalitions, that means you have to broaden your base, because if we want, let us say, certain women's groups to join us, then we have to give some attention to joining women's groups. If we want some Civil Rights advocates to help us, that means we have to be looked upon by Civil Rights groups as a group that is going to help them. That means you have to broaden your program and be multiple.

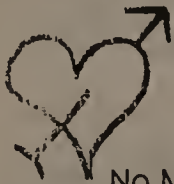
It seems to me that it is important to adopt a concept of social change. Also you have to identify who your real enemy is, and where the real opportunities for growth are. One aspect of this is one seldom fights his enemy. One ought not to give too much time to that. If the NAACP had spent all its time fighting the Ku Klux Klan, the Ku Klux Klan would have won. But the job of both the Ku Klux Klan and the NAACP is to behave in that way so that the ninety-five percent of the people in the middle who are not committed are won over. So the NAACP is trying to win that ninety-five percent and the Ku Klux Klan is trying to win that ninety-five percent. That's very important because sometimes people spend all their time denouncing the so-called opposition. The opposition very often has sense enough to know not to bother denouncing their opposition; they are busy winning the loyalty of the people in the middle. I think it is one of the biggest of the lessons we have to learn.

Chinn: What have you sacrificed in order to live the life of dedication you have chosen for yourself?

Rustin: I don't think I have sacrificed anything because I have had a very good time. I have enjoyed my work. I have had good benefits from it. I have traveled all over the world, which is the thing I could not have done if I had a nine to five job where I was making seventy five thousand dollars a year. I could not have had the time to go. I have met the most exciting people. There were people like Gandhi, Nehru, Martin Luther King, A. Philip Randolph, Bertrand Russell, Solzhenitsyn, Shcharansky and many prime ministers of countries. There has been a real advantage to it.

Chinn: Well, you carry it well. Thank you very much.

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A Modest Thank-you

By Susie Day

"You're much too hostile," my therapist said. "Why don't you — in your own words — try to *thank* the people who cause you momentary grief and frustration? After all, they are the agents of your own personal growth."

"OK," I retorted. I spent all last Friday being thankful:

Dear Earthwomoon (a.k.a. Phyllis),

Thank you for the "wimmin only" chain letter. I was particularly moved by the opening: "To the Wimmin in My Life Who Want to Create Their Own Reality and Make \$10,000."

I agree that reality is a vital women's issue. However, unlike The Night, reality doesn't seem the sort of thing women should "Take Back" indiscriminately. Especially when it's so much easier and nicer simply to create our own. And 10,000 patriarchal bucks is a *lot* of reality....

Apologos of money, I am sending you, postage pre-paid, one of my favorite magazine articles ever: "What — Me Suffer?" I got it out of *The Whole New Life High Times*. It's made me come to terms with some reality that I used to think I had something to do with. Like those bag ladies who gloom up my block. They probably cling to a mental image of themselves as

destitute and homeless, with filthy clothes and inadequate food. No doubt that's why they never receive any chain letters.

And did you know that you can get cancer just by worrying about getting it? *Scary*.

Stay as Real as you are, Susie

Dear Walter Mondale,

Just a note to say thank you for running for president. Without you, Mr. Reagan would have had to beat somebody else at the polls. But you made it possible for our Two-Party System to operate as it usually does. Anyway. Thanks.

I have a tiny suggestion, though. For your next presidential campaign? Don't hit 'em with that tired old "people before profits" stuff. For some reason, people, given the choice, will prefer profits to other people every time.

If you really want to appeal to the public interest, you've got to speak to what the public values most: personal appearance. Just get people to see how their looks have been shot to hell under the

current administration, and you're home free. Heck, I could give you a personal testimony, myself:

Hi. I'm a lesbian. Ever since Ronald Reagan kicked the guts out of affirmative action and heated up the arms race, I've developed dark, puffy circles under my eyes, unwanted fatty deposits, and a yeast infection. Now, with *Mondale's* more moderate policies, I look better, feel better, even enjoy a more fulfilling sex life, without fear of embarrassing persecution stains. And, for a limited time only, FREE! — with each Mondale vote — a consultation with a licensed plastic surgeon!

Supply-side ugliness will be a thing of the past. Ours will be a nation of poorly housed, underfed beautiful people.

Of course, we can expect underhanded counter-plays from the White House. The Reagans will probably take in some misshapen little orphan girl from the Chernobyl area and try to pretty her up. But this will only con-

Continued on page 12

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A Modest Thank-you

Continued from page 11

vince the American people of your
larger vision, Walter Mondale, as
you warn them of how unattrac-
tive they will look when *their*
nuclear reactors leak all over *them*.
No one wants to date a bloated,
crackling cinder.

Regards,
An Anti-Ugly American

Dear Reverend Falwell,

I've seen your posters around
town for several days now, and
would like to show my apprecia-
tion for their clear, easy-to-read
lettering and correct grammar.
That picture of you with the hor-
izon came out real good and is
quite flattering. Unfortunately, I
will be busy the night of your Rally
for a More Righteous Decency, so

cannot attend. Thank you,
though, for putting your sign in
my neighborhood, where a mili-
tant homosexual such as myself
could read it.

It's little gestures like that that
make me doubt you are really anti-
gay, Reverend. Anti-gay people
are mean and spiteful, and your
poster shows you smiling and
brave. Yes, you must be very
brave, Jerry Falwell, to have had a
lifelong primary relationship with
a Jewish carpenter who's been
dead for over 2,000 years. Doesn't
anyone in your family object to the
differences in your religions?

Seriously, Jerry. I've been hear-
ing quite a lot about you lately.
You see, sometimes I talk to Jesus.
Oh, don't get me wrong; we're not
even good friends. But we do get
together at the 92nd Street Y from
time to time and play dominos.

We gossip. For instance, did
you know that God is really a pan-
sexual, multi-ethnic, racially mix-
ed, non-heirarchical collective?
Which should prove, once and for
all, that God is not a God of
Revenge, and that our earthly mis-
fortunes are simply the result of
shoddy processing. You might
want to emphasize this fact more
at your rallies, Reverend.

Jesus also tells me things about

your relationship. All about your
inability to express vulnerable
emotions; the fact that you never
take out the garbage; your kinky
positions on nuclear missiles and
other projectiles; that sordid trip
to South Africa, where you made
him feel "so cheap."

Jesus is pretty fed up, Jerry. So I
thought the Truth might set him
free. On my suggestion, he's been
writing his memoirs about his life
with you. *A Bomb In Gilead, or
Even Saviours Get the Blues*. Ran-
dom House has offered us a gen-
erous contract and movie rights,
once it's finished.

Please, Jerry. It's never too late
if you love someone. Jesus doesn't
want to write those things. Won't
you give him something nice to say
about you — while there's still
time? Hurry Jerry. We're proofing
the galleys.

Hope you two
can work
things out —
A Wayfaring Stranger

I admit it's only a modest begin-
ning. There are so many more peo-
ple to thank. But if we *all* pitch in,
we can get the job done a lot
sooner. And we'll be better people
for it.

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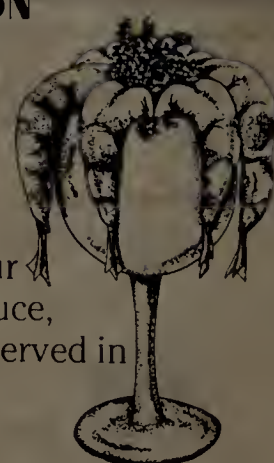
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L looking for L to share 2 Bdrm Cambridge apt near Inman Sq. I'd like a friendly, relaxed home, prefer no drugs or alc. Leave msg 524-0921. (50)

NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Active GPF seeks resp indep roomie for comfortable apt, your life is your own, I enjoy occ mutual meals and R & R time. 2 cats, T os park. \$250/hted split utl. Keep trying. Watertown. 923-1419. (49)

L 30+ seeks same to share spacious 6 room apt in J.P. Furnished except bedroom. Must be neat, responsible and non-smoker. No cats. Must like dogs. Temp ok. Call 524-7774. (48)

ROOM FOR RENT

Large sunny room available now in our victorian home. Tree-lined street. 10 minute walk to Ashmont T. Share house with 3 LF's. No pets. \$300/mo heat + util incl. Carol or Deborah at 288-3137. (48)

Cheap rent! Lesbian mom looking for live-in babysitter-very low rent in exchange for 10-15 hrs/week of help with childcare in JP. Call Julie 522-2626. (49)

LF couple seeks LF to share apt in Medford near Tufts & T. Washer dryer, d + d, w-w, yard. Resp, neat, nonsmoking adult. Have small dog. Sorry no more pets. \$350 incl + 1 month sec. Avail July 1. 391-4110 After 6:30. (49)

NATICK HOME TO SHARE

Resp. LF wanted to share home w/LF couple + son. Convenient to T. No smokers. \$350 includes all. 655-8331. Leave message. (49)

2-LFs seek 3-4 more (28+) to fill our JP home. Semi-veg, spiritual, fun, political coop. Couples ok. No more pets or cigs. Near T. \$200-250 +. Nan 524-8028 eves or 262-3740 days. (48)

2 Lfs sks 3rd for beaut 3 br apt in Davis Sq, Som. Nr T. Large 1st flr apt with small br avail. Chem-free. 1 cat. 1 yr min pref. \$200 +. 628-4165. (49)

Prof LF 35 seeks same to share 2 br in 2 fam house. Safe area. No pets, cigs or slpbs please. Avail immed. \$370 mo + util. Call 244-6725. (49)

SERENITY X 3

2 LFs, 30+ seek 3rd LF for roommate. 3 bdrm house near Tufts. \$250 heat incl. Prefer 12 step Al-Anon program. Clean, mature, fin. secure, 26+. 596-0003 or 629-2882. (50)

2 JLF seek JF for independent, friendly, gt apt. Low rent. Nr Davis Sq. Kosher/veggie. Pls call 623-8603. (48)

AUG—SEPT SUBLET

Woman needed for 2-month sublet with 2 independent lesbian. Near Inman Sq. \$185/month. No cats. Furnished. Share foodor separate. 628-4382 (H); 426-4469 (W-Loie). (49)

AVAILABLE JULY 1

Near Tufts and Davis Sq. L woman seeks same to share 2 Bd apt, nice, sunny, good location. Independent, reliable, no smoking, please. \$400 mo. 776-0960. (48)

Gay woman (GCN volunteer) seeks roommate for So. End apt.(under rent control). \$125/month + util. Avail. immediately. No security dep. For more info call Mike at GCN 426-4469.

LF, professional, 29 seeks roommate and apt in Salem. \$300-50 incl. util. Have small dog. Seek quiet, relaxed living. Donna-423-7330 x 1223, days. (48)

2 LF seek LF for great JP apt. Wood floors, wd, yard. Resp. neat, non-smkr. No cats. Avail 9/1 or mid-summer. \$253 +. 522-2921 before 10:30. (48)

DORCHESTER POPE'S HILL

LF seeks 1 or 2 roommates for great 3 bedroom apt. Hardwood floors, lots of light, porch, fenced in yard. Pet negotiable. Rent \$675 plus utilities. Split 2 or 3 ways. Available immed. Call 426-3302 eves or weekends. (48)

OUR APT IS A HOME

LF, SF + cat sk 1 more F for Inman Sq. apt. We are semi-coop, fun non-smokers. 1 more cat ok. \$250 + chp util. 661-7295. morn or eve. (47)

ROOM FOR RENT

Large sunny room available now in our Victorian home. Tree-lined street. 10 minute walk to Ashmont T. Share house with 3 LF's. No pets. \$300/mo heat + util incl. Carol or Deborah at 288-3137. (47)

HOME TO SHARE

2 GM seek housemate for 2' bdrm furnished, clean, neat, coop house. Warm, friendly atmosphere. Sunny private yard. Seek responsible person with outgoing personality. References preferred. Convenient to T. Parking, animal lovers only. \$250 +. 628-8065. Call after 5 or leave message. (48)

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GCN VOLUNTEERS

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DICTIONARY, anyone?

The most requested book at the Prisoner's Project is the dictionary. (Prisoners, generally uneducated, need them to wade thru law books etc.) If you have a spare one (paperbacks especially), please send it to: GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111. Thanks! (c)

PHOTO FANATICS

We still need folks to sort through and file old photos. Have fun and help GCN at the same time. Call Loie, 426-4469. (c)



I'm 26, Black, BI, and enjoy reading, children and the outdoor life. Also I would like to possibly make contact with a good lawyer regarding a case against DOC and Framlingham Union Hospital. Cassie McIntyre, Box 99 Max, Framlingham MA 01701.

I'm a 26 yr old white girl who prefers Black women, between 18 and 35. I'm a libra and a good lover. Tammy MELCHIONNE, Box A-IMCC, Oakdale IA 52319.

I'd love to hear from all honest and sincere people. I'm 25 and doing hard time. Sorry, other prisoners can't write here. Please write soon. I could use some encouragement. Barble KANE, A226112-274, Box 8540, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024



Gay prisoner looking for friendship and love. Will answer all sincere inquiries. Please take a chance. [Pris. Proj. Note: THANKS a lot for the great graphics you sent and the poem; something will be in the prisoner poetry centerspread for sure!] Anthony Wolfgang McKENZIE, 44873, Box R, Buena Vista CO 81211.

Whole lotta time and equal love. Penpals are new to me but I'd like to give a try. I like dancing, the beach, music, and sex. Please write. Gregory PHILLIPS, 328230, Box 158 (No.590), Lowell FL 32663

Black male, attractive, seeks beautiful transsexual or feminine gay male, 18+, for honest friendship or possible permanent relationship. Race unimportant. Photo please. Samson BURCH, 81A 3683, Drawer B, Stormville NY 12582.

Will you please send me one of your gay penpals. I'm still looking for a gay friend. Can you put my name on your free subscription list? Thanks. Henry HINES, 295914, Rt 4 Box 1200, Rosharon TX 77583.

Gay man desperately in need of friendship and maybe a shoulder to cry on every now and then. I'm really lonely. Michael HOUT, 388972 (B1-1-05), Rt 1 Box 1, Huntsville TX 77349.

Believes in the magic in words and thus wishes to stimulate the dormant creativity of the many flowers that read GCN...No celly, not even a mirror to piss at. Will you write and share your hidden secrets and dare to be a letter friend? Please write to this lonely queer in bondage. David E. REZABEK, 34034, Box 900, Jefferson City MO 65102.

Gay prisoner seeking correspondence, friendship and possibly more (of course). Dan CAHILL, 165-364, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Black Bro., 33, lonely, love children, sports, music, and dancing. Seek compatibility, happiness and a special person to share it with. Age, race unimportant. Willie Earl BLOUNT, 85A6391, Box 750 Wallkill, NY 12589.

Vet GCN writer seeks help to resettle. Leads, help in finding radio, arts admin, cable, clerical, or other job and/or housing needed for fall '86. John ZEH, 184-601, Box 209, Orient, OH 43146. [Pris Proj Note: John is a "vet" indeed around here! Please help him with ideas if you can. Thanks.]

I'm into sports, music and writing. I also like cuddling. Am looking for a penpal to write. Jimmie BESCHLER, 84C827, Box 367, Dannemora NY 12929.

Does Mr. Burdick think a few bad apples spoils the whole bunch? Does he think the business people he buys from aren't ripping him off? There are a lot of inmates who need letters from caring people. I'm one and I have no intention of swindling anyone. SASE would be helpful. Please write if you want to be a friend. Mark DEVENNEY, 01210-025, Box 33, Terre Haute IN 47808.



Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE (Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist).



Gay & Lesbian Penpals

We are a "support" group for gays and lesbians and have no limitations on correspondence as long as you can find a stamp to send a letter. Prisoners are welcome to write. Gays, bisexuals or lesbians, write to: GLCSE, PO Box 38777, Hollywood CA 90038.

Artists & Poets!

Some time this summer we'll do our 4th annual gay/lesbian prisoner poetry & drawings centerspread. Get out your pens (black for drawings, if possible; blue is ok) and pencils, and get to play!! We'll probably get more than we can print, so don't be mad if we can't fit all of them (please) (smile). THANX!!!



HELP! DICTIONARIES!!!

One of the 'facts of life' folks is that prisoners are often without much 'education' (which is partly why they're where they are: hard to get jobs, hard to deal with the legal jargon). PLEASE send any old dictionaries (paperback or not), or \$ to buy some used, to: GCN, 167 Tremont St., Boston MA 02111. THANKS!

Am seeking correspondence with TS support groups and with those that are concerned in TRUTH with the rights of ALL human beings. Sorry we are not allowed here to write other prisoners. All correspondence may be addressed to Ms. Penny, c/o Martin J. ROLLO, 090749, 3876 Evans Rd, Box 50, Polk City FL 33868



AIDS Notes

SYMPTOMS

Based on current speculation/info, some symptoms that MIGHT mean you have AIDS or ARC (AIDS-Related Complex) are: persistent fatigue; persistent fever, shaking chills or drenching night sweats lasting longer than several weeks; unexplained weight loss greater than 10 lbs; swollen glands (neck, armpits, groin) that persist for more than 2 weeks; pink to purple blotches or bumps on or under the skin, inside the mouth, nose, eyelids or rectum; persistent white spots in the mouth; persistent diarrhea; persistent dry cough. Almost all of the above can also be signs of some other, more common, illness, so PLEASE do not assume you have AIDS just because one or more of the above applies to you. Just have yourself checked out.

"SAFE SEX"

Though it is not yet firmly established, medical people believe AIDS is transmitted through exchange of 'bodily fluids' (cum, blood, shit); that is, where one person's cum, for example, ENTERS another person. [In Boston the AIDS Action Committee has a slogan: "Cum on me, not in me"! So things you CAN definitely do are: mutual jackoff, body massage, hugging, surface (dry) kissing, body-to-body rubbing, light S&M activities (without bruising or bleeding), using your own sex toys.

Things you CAN probably do safely are: mouth to mouth (wet) kissing, sucking but stopping before cumming; ass fucking with condom; water sports (as long as no piss enters the body (through broken skin etc.)

The following are considered unsafe at the moment: fucking and getting fucked without condom; cocksucking and taking the load; rimming; fisting.

FOREX TRAVEL

76 Arlington St.

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CALENDAR

**June 28
to
July 16**

28 saturday

Boston — Sex & Love Addicts Anonymous conference. Mass. Mental Health, 74 Fenwood Rd. 8:30AM-4:30PM. \$5. Info: 625-7961.

Boston — "God, Gays & the Bible" with Rev. **Troy Perry**. BNN Cable A3. 8PM.

Boston — "Sanctuary: The Spirit of Harriet Tubman," by **Kate Rushin** & the Underground Railway Theater. Cultural Center, Villa Victoria, 85 W. Newton St., South End. 7:30PM. \$5-10. Info: 497-6136.

Boston — Rally to stop forced relocation of Big Mountain tribes. Boston Common across from the State House. Noon. Info: 424-1176 or 628-7241.

Cambridge — Lesbian Couples discuss Jealousy. D.O.B., 1151 Mass. Ave. Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

29 sunday

Boston — Metropolitan Community Church, a Christian church of the gay & lesbian community. Worship service. 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.

Boston — Rock Against Sexism tea dance. 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. 6-10PM. \$2. Info: 739-6566.

Cambridge — Women's softball just-for-fun. Magazine Field, across from Memorial Drive Stop & Shop. \$1. All women welcome. Info: 661-3633.

North Conway, NH — North Country Gay Men's Association of the White Mountain Region meeting. 7PM. Info: Alan or Paul (603)356-6101, or P.O. Box 3011, No. Conway, NH 03860-3011.

30 monday

Cambridge — Self-help group for women drug addicts. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 7:30-9PM. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance meeting and party. Ideal Restaurant, 19-21 Huntington Ave. 7PM. All welcome.

Cambridge — Amelia and Jennifer to perform. Charlie's Tap, 280 Green St. 9PM. \$3.

july 1 tuesday

Cambridge — Open discussion on Lesbian Battering. D.O.B., 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

Boston — Jazz pianist Dorothy Donegan interviewed on "Say It Sister." WMBR, 88.1 FM radio. 7-8PM. Live call-in show.

2 wednesday

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 8PM-on. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston Tstops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — Am Tikva greets delegates from the World Congress of **Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.** City Hall, Piemonte Rm. 7-9PM. All welcome. Info: 782-8894.

Medford — "Beyond Therapy" written by Christopher Durang. Tufts Arena Theater. 8PM. \$8, \$6 seniors and students. Through July 12th. Info: 381-3493.

Cambridge — Jazz pianist Dorothy Donegan in concert. Starlight lounge. Through 7/5.

Cambridge — Lesbians Choosing Children Network. New members encouraged. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30PM. Info: 354-8807.



Sanctuary, June 28

3 thursday

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — "Spirituality and Psychic Phenomena," a discussion. D.O.B., 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3363.

4 friday

Brookline — Am Tikva Potluck and Shabbat Service with World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations. Boston Self-Help Center, 18 Williston Rd. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 782-8894.

Boston — Bike Trip to Bristol, RI, to watch oldest and largest 4th parade. Info: Vincent, 636-2984.

Bar Harbor, ME — Acadian Holiday with the Chiltern Mtn. Club. 3 days of biking, hiking, volleyball and cookouts. Info: Michael, 522-9194.

Cambridge — Sixth national gathering of the United Church Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns. First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St. Through Sunday. Info: 524-4288.

Manchester — Beach day with North of Boston Lesbians. Info: 488-7182.

5 saturday

Boston — "Shabaton Workshops," with the World Congress of Gay/Lesbian Jewish Organizations. Mass. College of Art, 625 Huntington Ave. \$10 includes lunch. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 782-8894.

Cambridge — United Church of Christ Coalition for Lesbian/Gay Concerns present **Susan Savell** in concert. First Church, 11 Garden St. 8:30PM. Info: 524-4288.

Boston — "Something About the Women" presents **Voices from Nairobi**, part 1 of 5-part series. WMFO 91.5 FM. 11AM.

6 sunday

Boston — Tour of Jewish Boston with Am Tikva. Meet at Paul Revere Statue, Hanover St., North End. 1PM. \$5. Info: 782-8894.

Cambridge — Marcia Deihl with the Oxymorons and Toba Spitzer to benefit Harvard Union of **Clerical and Technical Workers.** Charlie's Tap, Central Sq. behind Purity Supreme. 8PM. \$5.

Dorchester — GALA Potluck. 7PM. Donations requested. Info: 288-4765 or 288-8029.

7 monday

Cambridge — Double-Edge Theater presents "Gardzienice" from Poland. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8:30PM. Through July 12. Info: 254-4228.

8 tuesday

Boston — GCN membership meeting and potluck dinner. 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. All volunteers welcome.

Cambridge — NOW Reproductive Rights Task Force. 99 Bishop Allen Drive, Central Sq. 7PM.

Cambridge — Big Women's Water Aquatics. Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St. Women 200 lbs. and over, no swimming required. Info: 491-6050.

9 wednesday

Cambridge — Feminist Discussion Group: "Loving too much." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Janet Hood and Susan Farley. Ryles, Inman Sq. 8:30-11:30PM. \$4. Info: 876-9330.

11 friday

Tenants Harbor, ME — Libana women's ensemble weekend workshop. Blueberry Cove Camp. \$105. Info: (617)395-1920 or (207)372-6353.

12 saturday

Boston — Firing Line presents, "AIDS: The Rights of the Patient, The Rights of the Public," with William Buckley and Alan Dershowitz. Ch 44. 7:30PM.

Boston — "AIDS: Profile of an Epidemic," with Ed Asner, host. Ch. 44. 8:30PM.

Boston — Dance Party: Celebrate the 7th anniversary of Nicaragua's Revolution. First Church, 11 Garden St. \$5. Childcare by reservation: 524-5362. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 522-5381 or 524-5362.

Boston — Black Gay Men's Caucus bus trip to P'town sponsored by Black Men's Assoc. Info: 353-0719 or 424-1695.



Ellis Haizlip, July 13

13 sunday

Concord — Canoe Trip with North of Boston Lesbians. South Bridge Boathouse. 11AM. Info: 322-3233.

Roxbury — Black Gay Men's Caucus. Ellis B. Haizlip, radio producer, will speak. First Church of Roxbury. Info: 353-0719 or 424-1695.

14 monday

Mansfield — Joe Jackson in concert. Great Woods. 7:30PM. \$18.50-13.50. Info: 523-6633.

16 wednesday

Boston — Party in honor of Ann Maguire. Somewhere Else. 6-8PM. \$20. Info: Dave Gearhart, 423-7760.

Cambridge — Feminist Discussion Group: "Single Parenting." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

note this!

City Down, an album by Casselberry-Dupree, produced by Linda Tillery, on the Iceberg Records label.

Twenty years ago, a trio of Black women emerged on the American music scene. With seemingly minute effort, The Supremes recorded one infectious three-minute epic after another. The group forever expanded the meaning of pop music by singing songs that appealed to people of all colors — songs that had everyone crooning "Baby, baby where did our love go?"

Earlier this year, in a San Francisco studio, another trio of Black women gathered and in their way, again proved there is much depth and breadth to American music. In *City Down* (Iceberg Records), Casselberry-Dupree and their producer Linda Tillery have created a musically diverse album that also leaves a message. *City Down* has a reggae sway, a West African beat, a country twang, a gospel drive and a bluesy wail. There is something for everyone.

On the title track, Casselberry-Dupree sing about the pressures of urban life. The song is sung with such enthusiasm and commitment that it becomes an inspiring musical speech. When the duo sings "Don't let them run your life...just keep pushing on," you can almost see a cheering crowd rising to its feet.

"Did Jesus Have a Baby Sister?" has a gospel blues beat and a righteous message — "Her brother's birth announcement was pretty big..., while she got precious little notice in the press." The bluesy guitar of Steph Birnbaum gives the song traditional gospel "call and response" overtones. After a while, Casselberry-Dupree transform from singers to preachers. And their sermon about Jesus' baby sister is one we all need to hear.

Casselberry-Dupree give good renditions of the Bob Marley tunes "Positive Vibration," and "Coming In From the Cold." On the latter, Ray Obiedo has arranged a rhythm track that is a shining example of tight, precise, funk-infused reggae.

City Down is the product of the minds, hearts, and diverse talents of three Black women. As such, it is no surprise that it reflects the hopes and despairs of many. It is an album that embraces the connections between us all — and sparks the urge to croon.

— Evelyn C. White
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The AIDS Show San Francisco and London

Graphics, video, film and still photographs by community organizations and individual artists responding to the AIDS crisis are currently being sought for entry into this San Francisco/London exhibition. Interested contributors are asked to write as quickly as possible: J.Z. Grover, 3739 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60613.

Calyx Asian Anthology


Calyx will publish an anthology of writing and art by Asian American women. Anyone interested in submitting her poetry, fiction, essays, interviews, reviews, journal excerpts, short drama or art is encouraged to do so by August 1, 1986. Please contact Margarita Donnelly of *Calyx* for further information. *Calyx*, Special Issue, PO Box B, Corvallis, OR 97339, (503) 753-9384

Manuscripts Sought

This shared work cooperative is now accepting poetry manuscripts by New England women and men. All manuscripts should be from sixty to seventy pages in length and typed. Before submitting a manuscript, contact Alice James for further information. Alice James Books, 138 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge, MA 02139

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe

GayCommunity News



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